

Interview with Sadie Chase Flint
in Eastham, Massachusetts

Interview #1
by Vivian Andrist
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Q: This is an interview with Sadie Chase Flint, recent president of the Eastham Historical Society. It's taking place in her home in Eastham, Massachusetts and it's under the sponsorship of the Oral History Project of the Eastham Historical Society. The date is May 22, 1981, and the interviewer is Vivian Andrist.

Sadie, tell me, where and when were you born?

Sadie Flint: I was born here in Eastham, November 18th, 1904.

Q: And how did you happen to get the name, Sadie? Was there any family story?

Sadie Flint: My grandmother was named Sarah, and they didn't name me for some reason. My grandmother thought I should be named Mary, after my father's mother, and nobody named me, so she started calling me Sadie, and I was left with that name.

Q: Were you baptized Sadie?

Sadie Flint: Not that I know of. My people just weren't church-going people.

Q: Tell me about your father. What was his name and where was he from?

Sadie: He was born in Chatham and his father was lost at sea, so his mother and he came to Orleans. She kept house for a man in East Orleans and finally they married. So he grew up there.

Q: And his father was lost at sea? Was he^a/fisherman?

Sadie: Either that or a sea-going man, I don't know. I never knew much about him.

Q: What was your father's full name?

Sadie: Ezra Leon Chase.

Q: Was he named after someone in the family?

Sadie: I expect he was, but I don't know.

Q: You don't know too much about it? Also, then tell me about your mother. Is she an Eastham girl?

Sadie: Yes. She was born in my old house out on the lawn, that I had torn down, and she lived there all her life, till she married.

Q: And what was her name?

Sadie: Amanda Doane Smith.

Q: So that you are on her side descended from the Doane family?

Sadie: Yes.

Q: Do you know which one?

Sadie: Barnabas was one of them and it goes back to Deacon John. I think Deacon John had several sons and Barnabas was the one that we were closely connected with.

Q: What do you remember about your home life when you were a little girl here?

Sadie: Oh, it was nice. It was a big farm and it was a nice community to grow up in.

Q: Was your father a farmer then?

Sadie: No. You see, I didn't live with my father. After my brother was born and my mother died a week and a half afterwards, so then my grandmother took me and my brother, and practically saved his life, because he'd been poisoned. And nobody ever thought that he'd survive, but he did. And she brought us up, and when I was three years old, my father married again. Lived in East Orleans, so I never lived with them. I lived here with my grandparents.

Q: What poisoned him, your brother?

Sadie: He had peritonitis.

Q: He did? Your brother?

Sadie: No, my mother. You see, she nursed him the old-fashioned way. You know, they just didn't-- we understood the doctor had told the nurse to notify him if she wasn't better. I guess he didn't think

she was right, and he was going to Boston-- in those days, you had to go to Boston to a hospital. You know, a patient, he had to make the trip to Boston. And she never notified him, and when he came back, it was too late. They had surgeons and so on come down from Boston, but nothing could be done.

Q: Oh, how terrible. What was your grandmother's full name?

Sadie: Sarah-- I think it was Amanda, I'm sure it was. Sarah Amanda Doane was her maiden name.

Q: And this was the one where the father was lost at sea?

Sadie: No. It was my father whose father was lost at sea.

Q: Oh, I see.

Sadie: This is my grandmother.

Q: Your grandmother--

Sadie: Sarah Doane Smith.

Q: Okay. I'm just trying to sort this all out.

Sadie: I don't wonder.

Q: And she was married to-- ?

Sadie: Francis W. Smith.

Q: Francis W. Smith. Okay. And he was alive when you were living with them?

Sadie: Oh, yes.

Q: Oh, I see. And what did he do?

Sadie: He was a fisherman and a farmer. And then he started building cottages on the Town Cove.

Q: Which is where you live now. Are they the same cottages?

Sadie: Yes, they are. They've been improved a lot, but they're still there.

Q: And what were your brothers and sisters then? How many did you have?

Sadie: I had just one brother. And then my father married again and I have a half-sister that lives in East Orleans.

Q: Do you see much of her?

Sadie: Quite a lot.

Q: All right. When you were growing up as a little girl, you said you attended the school over here, where we now have the museum. What can you remember about it? What was the first day when you went? What was it like?

Sadie: I remember the first year or so that I went, they had a barge which took us all down there, drawn by horses. A barge. Instead of a bus, it was a barge. It was a great big long-- well, it was like a bus, only horses drew it.

Q: And they would come along and stop and pick up all the little children? And who was your teacher?

Sadie: Florence Keith.

Q: The one whose picture-- ? She taught from first grade on, did she?

Sadie: She taught the first two or three grades. I understood she trained to teach older children, but she happened to come here and she liked it and stayed all her life.

Q: Was this just the one teacher then?

Sadie: No, I went on to the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. They were in another room. See, the museum now is just what we call the grammar school, and there was a building to the right and one to the left. And one building we went into the intermediate and then we went in the grammar school.

Q: And who did you have in fourth, fifth and sixth?

Sadie: Jennie B. Sparrow.

Q: Was she Captain Sparrow's wife?

Sadie: No, she would have been a sister-in-law.

Q: What do you remember about those first grades? Were they-- did you have kids with dunce hats on, that sat in the corner?

Sadie: No, I don't remember a dunce hat at all.

Q: What kind of discipline was there?

Sadie: Oh, it was perfect. Miss Keith was-- I don't know what there was about her, but she had control of everything, and I guess we did pretty well. I don't know of anybody being punished particularly.

Q: In other words, you didn't have bad boys in the school?

Sadie: Maybe they were there, but I don't remember them.

Q: What kind of subjects did you have?

Sadie: Oh, just the-- you know, reading and writing, and we had music, and we had a drawing teacher who came once a week, and, oh, I thought it was a wonderful thing to go to school. Because I lived alone, you know. I didn't have anyone to play with particularly. I loved to go to school.

Q: And you had a lot of friends?

Sadie: Yes, I guess so.

Q: What kind of play did you have after school and at recess?

Sadie: Oh, we played tag, and we used to roll hoops. Did you ever do that, Virginia? (To Virginia Gross, who is sitting in on the interview). Hoops from wagons, you know. The wagons that had gone perhaps to pieces. And we rolled them with a little stick up and down the road. And we played and we jumped rope and we played different games. I can't remember what they were called.

Q: Hop-scotch, I suppose?

Sadie: Hop-scotch, and there were others, but I don't remember what they were. But we kept busy after school.

Q: What role did the sea play in your life? Much?

Sadie: No, because I never got there. I couldn't go unless I walked, and my grandfather was so busy. No, we never went to the ocean.

Q: I've talked to a lot of people around here who never did. They called it the backside.

Sadie: Yes.

Q: And nobody seemed to be wanting to go down to the ocean and walk along the beach or anything.

Sadie: Well, you'd have to drive down there and that took a while. And the roads weren't that good. So we just didn't go. My grandfather had a weir out in the Bay, so once in a while I'd go with him, with a horse and a wagon, and he'd drive out at low tide as far as he could and get the fish out of the weir. So that was a treat. But as for going to go swimming, you just didn't do it.

Q: Did you tell us that your grandfather's farm was on the corner of Thumpertown?

Sadie: That was where he was brought up. That's where he grew up, and then he married my grandmother and she lived up here with her grandmother. So he came up here and lived up here.

Q: Oh, I see. What happened to the old farm down there?

Sadie: I don't know. When I was a little girl, there were just the deep holes where the cellars were, but, of course, now it's changed entirely.

Q: Which corner was it?

Sadie: As you go down-- it would be on the right-hand side as you go through from the main road.

Q: As you come down Kingsbury Beach Road?

Sadie: Well, if you came down Kingsbury Beach Road, it would be on the left. The first corner.

Q: Before you get to Herring Brook?

Sadie: Of course, there were no houses then. And I remember those deep holes. I guess the house just went to pieces probably.

Q: You mean his family just abandoned it?

Sadie: I don't know, but I know toward the end of his father and mother's life, Grandma had them up here and took care of them till they died, and the rest of the family was scattered around. Several of his brothers died as young men. Suppose they had appendicitis and nothing was done, you know, and they died.

Q: You didn't have too many medical facilities then here?

Sadie: No.

Q: Did you have a doctor?

Sadie: There was a doctor in Orleans. But no drugstore. Was there?
Do you remember a drugstore? (To Virginia)

Virginia Gross: No.

Sadie: The doctor had everything, everything in his office. I remember Dr. White in Orleans, when I was growing up, if you needed anything, you'd go, and he'd do all the mixing and everything else. There were no drugstores.

Q: And no nurses around.

Sadie: Well, there were a few, but they weren't trained, you know.

Q: How about the Cape Cod Hospital then? That was recent?

Sadie: Well, that wasn't built until in the 1930's. The early 1930's maybe.

Q: What did you do as a teenager? What kind of fun did you have?

Sadie: Oh, we played about the same. I took music lessons. I used to go to the Salt Pond House and take music lessons. And-- I don't know what we did.

Q: Did you have dances?

Sadie: Oh, yes. And the Grange was very active and everybody belonged to it.

Q: Tell me about the Grange. When did you first join it?

Sadie: I joined it when I was fourteen years old.

Q: And what was the purpose? I know it was an agricultural organization.

Sadie: It was an agricultural organization, but then after while it became more social. But everybody belonged to it.

Q: It used to be big. I think the reason it was founded, you know, has sort of disappeared now, evidently, which is too bad.

Sadie: Yes, it is. A lot of good things came out of it.

Q: Did you have 4-H Clubs?

Sadie: Yes, we did. I belonged to that once. Had to make bread every night, I remember that.

Q: You went to bake bread every night?

Sadie: I had to make it, yes.. I couldn't bake it, but I could fix it in the morning, then my grandmother would bake it. But you had to make so many loaves a week and, goodness, I wasn't big enough to make many loaves at once, so I used to make a loaf a night.

Q: Where did you go to school, when you were a teenager?

Sadie: In Orleans. After I got through the eighth grade, I went to Orleans.

Q: And you had a bus to get there too?

Sadie: Yes, there was a bus. You don't remember where the old schoolhouse was, do you?

Q: No, where was it?

Sadie: You know where the Town Hall is in Orleans? You know where the American Legion Hall is? That was the school. There was a big school there.

Q: Down near where the Unitarian Church is? Right across from the cemetery?

Sadie: That's where we went to high school.

Q: Do you remember anything particular about it? Did you enjoy going to high school?

Sadie: Oh, yes. Loved it.

Q: And who were your friends?

Sadie: I don't know. I had many friends, but I didn't have anybody particularly close, as I remember.

Q: And did you plan on going on to college?

Sadie: I wanted to go to business school. Always wanted to. And the only course I could take in high school was bookkeeping and business law, and in order to take bookkeeping, I had to give up a day in I guess it was a French class. But I loved it. I loved bookkeeping, making things balance.

Q: And you wanted to be what? A secretary?

Sadie: I wanted to go to business school.

Q: And what kept you back?

Sadie: My grandmother. I had to go and be a teacher. Just had to. And I didn't want to. I wanted to do something different, but she insisted, so--

Q: Those were the days when you had to?

Sadie: I think if I'd been a little stronger, my life would have been completely different.

Q: It might have at that. So where did you go to study to be a teacher?

Sadie: I went to Bridgewater State College.

Q: And that was what? A four-year?

Sadie: It was just about becoming four-year when I went there. And I lived there four years. I don't remember anything I learned, but I liked some of the girls, you know, that I lived with. (LAUGHTER) I don't remember anything.

Q: What were you going to teach?

Sadie: I didn't care particularly. I trained to teach junior high, but I never got to that. I just didn't teach very long anyway. Which I didn't mind a bit.

Q: Why?

Sadie: I just didn't care about it. I wanted to learn to type. I always wanted to learn to type and do shorthand, and one of the men

at one of my grandfather's cottages brought down a typewriter, an old-fashioned typewriter, once for me. I used to try to learn from that, but you don't have much inspiration learning by yourself. But I always wanted to.

Q: What was your first job?

Sadie: I taught school in Dedham, outside of Boston. Little Italian children. Hated it.

(LAUGHTER)

Q: Why? Were they hard to discipline?

Sadie: Yes, they were hard. And I had these two big fellows sitting up in the back of the room. They were just sitting there. I think it was fourteen years they had to go. Or sixteen was it. Might have been sixteen. And they just sat there. And I-- why, they were bigger than I was.

And it was scarey. I had to go down a street where all the Italians lived, and I didn't like it at all.

Q: You were frightened?

Sadie: I was scared. Didn't dare to say anything though.

Q: Where did you live? With a family?

Sadie: Yes. Another girl and I, one of my classmates, boarded with a family. And that was nice. I enjoyed that.

Q: How did you get out of it?

Sadie: My grandmother had a shop, so I had to come back. So I

resigned. And I was glad, because I just hated it. Couldn't stand it. And I came back here, and, of course, I wanted to go on. I would like to have then made enough money so I could have gone to business school, but I came back here and I stayed until she died, and then my grandfather was left alone, so I lived here and took care of him.

Q: And then you got married, right?

Sadie: Yes, a few years later.

Q: Tell me about your husband. What was his background and what was his name and so forth?

Sadie: Well, his name was George Irving Flint, and he came down here for his health. I didn't meet him for several years after he'd been here. He came from Melrose. Melrose Highlands, near Boston. And he came here and we went out a little bit, and he was all right, but I wasn't crazy about him. Next thing I heard, he was married, and I thought, oh, that's just fine.

Q: That took care of him.

(LAUGHTER)

Sadie: And then a couple of years later, I met him uptown. Oh, he wanted me to do this and that, and I said no, you're married, I don't want anything to do with you. He said, Father, you come over and tell her that I'm not married any longer. And he said, that's right. And I said, well-- . He said, you didn't believe me. I said, no. I didn't believe him. And even then I wouldn't go anywhere with him. He'd make a date and I'd go to the movies to get away, you know. And

at that time we had a housekeeper taking care of Grandpa. I'd get out and she'd tell him-- something. I don't know what she did tell him. But it was a long while before we ever got real friendly again.

Q: What made you change your mind?

Sadie: I don't know. I guess he finally convinced me.

Q: He must have been a bit of a salesman. What did he do?

Sadie: Well, he started to go to Tufts Medical School and then he got crazy about this girl and married her and he stopped going. And then he developed-- he had an arthritic time. He really had a terrible time, in between his marriage and coming back, when I met him. And an osteopath pulled him out of it. Got him to walk. Medical doctors said he'd never walk again, and this osteopath came in and he said, in six weeks time I'll have you up. And he did. And so the only thing he had left was a stiff wrist. One wrist was stiff. That's all.

So he got interested in osteopathy. So he started going to school, and then I met him when he was halfway through the course. So then he finally graduated. We went to Maine to live, because he had a good chance to practice up there.

Q: What was your wedding day like? Where were you married?

Sadie: Christmas Day.

Q: How did you happen to pick that?

Sadie: I don't know. I just happened to. He said it wasn't right,

because it meant two presents instead of one. It was December 25th, 1934.

Q: And where were you married?

Sadie: In Orleans at the parsonage.

Q: Was it a big wedding, Sadie, or a little one?

Sadie: No, it was nothing. Just another couple went and stood up with us, that was it. I didn't have anybody to give me a wedding. My stepmother-- I told her we were going to be married, and she said, well, don't expect me to have a wedding for you. So that's the kind of stepmother I had. She wasn't a mother at all, you know.

Q: She doesn't sound very nice.

Sadie: Well, she wasn't. And so we just went and got married, that was all.

Q: Did you go on a honeymoon?

Sadie: No. I had my grandfather to take care of. Nobody ever offered to take care of him, so I was stuck right here.

Q: So after your grandfather died, you moved to Maine?

Sadie: He was still living. We moved him.

Q: Oh, he went with you?

Sadie: Yes. We took him. He was blind, and all his friends had

died. Well, it was either leave George, give up my life with him, or stay here with my grandfather. And that wasn't right. All the people thought I shouldn't have taken him, but I think he was just as happy up there as he was here.

Q: Probably, yes. How old a man was he when he died?

Sadie: Eighty-six.

Q: And you moved up there when he was how old?

Sadie: Oh, he was about eighty-two, I guess.

Q: And then you came back again here? When?

Sadie: In 1957.

Q: You were in Maine a long time then?

Sadie: I used to come summers and I used to take care of the cottages down on the Cove. And then we built this house. In '48, I think it was.

Q: You and your husband?

Sadie: Yes.

Q: And you tore down the old house in front?

Sadie: Yes. Well, it needed a lot of repair and I couldn't stand the expense of having rewiring and everything. If I let it, I would let it to a family and they'd be all over the place. And it was a

big house. It just didn't work out, so I sold the heating system and I sold the bathroom fixtures and had it torn down.

Q: Well, let's see now. I have a little questionnaire. How has the Cape changed in your lifetime?

Sadie: It's changed in many ways, I think. The town of Eastham has anyway.

Q: Can you give me some examples?

Sadie: I don't know, it seems as though years ago everybody knew everybody else and it was a community. If you went to a supper, everybody was there. If you went to a gathering of any kind, everyone was there, and it was altogether different. And it's different now.

Q: You mean just a lot of new people moving in?

Sadie: Yes. Well, it's just one of the adjustments you have to get used to.

Q: I suppose so. What was your feeling when the Cape Cod National Seashore was-- ?

Sadie: Oh, I didn't care. It didn't mean much to me.

Q: It didn't? Some people evidently felt quite violent about it.

Sadie: I think it's a good thing really, because it's preserved that part of Eastham. It think it's pleasant, it's attractive, and I like it very much.

Q: Did you have anybody in your family in the First World War?

Sadie: No.

Q: Do you remember any of-- do you remember when it ended? Was there a celebration here in Eastham?

Sadie: Well, in Orleans. I was a freshman in high school, and I remember we all went up there and they had parades and all kinds of things.

Q: Did they make the announcement in high school about the Armistice?

Sadie: I think so. I've forgotten. Of course, we didn't have radio. And I think so. I think the principal-- I think we got out of school early too.

Q: You didn't have any beaux or anything who went off to war?

Sadie: No.

Q: You were quite young.

Sadie: I was in between sort of, don't you know.

Q: Right. How about Prohibition? How did that affect the Cape?

Sadie: I don't know much about it.

Q: Did you have rumrunners here?

Sadie: Oh, I'm sure there were. I know there were.

Q: Do you remember anybody you know who might have been involved in it?

Sadie: I'd rather not say. (LAUGHTER)

Q: All right. And then we come along to the stock market crash and the Depression. A lot of the people I've talked to around here say that the stock market crash had very little effect on anybody here. Nobody had any money anyway, so how could they have lost it? So what was your-- did you have any-- ?

Sadie: My grandpa had some stocks and I think it made a little difference to him. He didn't get any dividends, you know. But I don't think it affected us too much really.

Q: And the Depression didn't either?

Sadie: No, I don't think so. Didn't have much anyway, so-- . I used to save up money to buy gasoline to go places. I didn't go very much.

Q: Was there a lot of unemployment here?

Sadie: I don't remember about that.

Q: Otto Nickerson said that he didn't remember anything either particularly. He said, there were always people unemployed. So how can you tell, he says. You can't tell if there's a Depression or not. (LAUGHTER)

How about big storms? Do you remember any big storms that occurred here and how it affected people's lives?

Sadie: Well, I remember Grandpa had a windmill on top of the barn, and if we had a violent wind, it would blow off. It'd be down in the

yard when we'd get up in the morning. I can remember that, but I don't remember any big storm.

Q: If you weren't tuned into the ocean, maybe it didn't make so much difference.

Sadie: I know there were, because we had big snowstorms. Used to pile up.

Q: Really? You had big snowstorms? Because I always think of the Cape as being kind of mild.

Sadie: I remember one day, when they were still dragging the barge by horses, they took us down to school and they came right back and got us, because the snow was piling up. The horses couldn't get through it.

Q: Were you acquainted with Sam Brackett's store?

Sadie: Oh, yes.

Q: Tell me about it. What was it like? What did they sell?

Sadie: Oh, they sold everything. I didn't know the store itself. I knew the man who came along and delivered, you know, and took orders. George Wiley.

Q: George Wiley, is he the one who was-- ? No, Maurice Wiley was the Selectman.

Sadie: No, this is George Wiley. He was a comedian.

Q: What do you mean?

Sadie: Well, he was just funny, but everybody loved to have him come. And he'd come in and sit down and take whatever you wanted-- he could bring anything, you know. Anything you needed. A weiring line or food or grain or anything.

Q: Did people go to the store to buy too?

Sadie: I guess those around there did, but we didn't up here, because we couldn't get there.

Q: What did he do, come around every day?

Sadie: No, every week. I think it was every week. It might have been twice a week.

Q: You said that religion didn't play much of a part in your life and you didn't go to church?

Sadie: No. Well, I went to Sunday School once in a while down at the little Universalist Church. My grandparents went to the Methodist Church a couple of times a Sunday. I guess that's where they met, but there was a faction that was disagreeable, so Captain Penniman and my grandparents and Della Macomber's folks and many people up here helped build that church and started it.

Q: You mean the Chapel in the Pines?

Sadie: Yes.

Q: Was it Unitarian then?

Sadie: No, just Universalist. I used to walk down there once in

a while to Sunday School, but it didn't mean much to me.

Q: In other words, nobody forced you to go to church or-- ?

Sadie: No. No, nobody at all.

Q: How about politics? Did you discuss things like that in your home?

Sadie: No. Wasn't anybody to discuss it with. (LAUGHTER)

Q: Did they talk about it in school?

Sadie: No. Never mentioned politics.

Q: No kidding?

Sadie: Oh, no.

Q: Or around town? I mean, when they had town elections and stuff.

Sadie: I never went to town elections. My grandfather used to go probably. I never heard much about it.

Q: Even after you grew up?

Sadie: Well, of course I didn't live here at home for a while, and then I didn't go because I don't think I was too much interested in any of it. Maurice Wiley, when he was running for Selectman, he walked-- it was a bitter cold day and he walked up and down the road visiting people, and I think I went at the time to vote for him. That's all.

Q: When we interviewed Belle Brackett, she said she could remember a time when they had one Democrat in town.

Sadie: Oh, I don't know about that.

Q: And everybody else was Republican, and in order to have the two parties represented, they had to go get him and be sure he was there. For counting the votes, you know.

Sadie: I bet I know who it was.

Q: You do?

Sadie: I think I might.

Q: I think she mentioned the name, but I can't remember who it was at all. Who do you think was one of the best Selectmen?

Sadie: Well, we had some that were terrible, I know that. I think Maurice Wiley stands out in people's memory.

Q: Why was that?

Sadie: I don't know what there was about him. You remember him, Virginia? There was something about him. I don't think he ever said no to anybody and still he would get around people. He had a way, a tactful way, that he could-- I don't know, he just kept things smooth and there weren't too many wrangles.

Q: How long was he Selectman?

Sadie: I don't remember. A long while.

Q: Fred Jewell said that Maurice Wiley sticks out in his mind too. He must have been a very-- what did he look like? What kind of man was he?

Sadie: He was a handsome man. He was a very kindly handsome man, I used to think, and I think everybody liked him, I really do.

Q: Is he the Wiley that Wiley Road is named after?

Sadie: Yes.

Q: Did he grow up on the Cape?

Sadie: Well, he grew up in Wellfleet, I think. I think he came from Wellfleet.

Q: And his family was old Cape Cod then?

Sadie: I should imagine so. I don't know.

Q: Did you know his wife?

Sadie: Oh, yes.

Q: And what was she like?

Sadie: Oh, she was nice, a very nice woman. I think she came here summers. I think that's how he met her, I don't know. Everybody liked her.

Q: Can you think of any of the other town officials that should be mentioned for history's sake? That would be important to have in the record?

Sadie: Well, Leslie Chase was-- I think I admired him, because he had a speech impediment, but still he'd get up and read. You know, at the Town Meetings they used to read the whole Warrant at the beginning. Can you imagine the Town Clerk doing that now? But they didn't have as many things in it, you know, whatever they call them. And he used to read all of that in the beginning. I don't know what the impediment was, but there was something that he just-- he never was just right. Some letter. But I think he was very efficient and seemed to know just what to do. He trained Belle, of course, to become Town Clerk.

Q: Was he any relation to you?

Sadie: No. He was Ralph Chase's brother.

Q: And Ralph Chase was no relation?

Sadie: Oh, maybe way back in the beginning.

Q: Tell me about Ralph Chase. He was another town person, who was fairly important evidently in the history of the town.

Sadie: He seems to be.

Q: What did he do?

Sadie: Well, he was an insurance man and then he was Selectman. I guess he was a good businessman.

Q: Well, I know he didn't get married until he was-- in his eighties, was it? Or seventies?

Sadie: I don't know.

Q: And then he married the little Japanese girl.

When you were married, how did you spend vacations? Did you take vacations and go on trips?

Sadie: Didn't have any. We'd come down here and I'd let the cottages and work all summer, then I'd go back. (LAUGHTER) I didn't have any vacation.

Q: That was your vacation?

Sadie: I was supposed to have vacation, you know, but it wasn't any vacation. The only vacation I got was taking all the children down to the Salt Pond to go swimming, something like that. Della Macomber and her sister and I and their cousin, who rented one of my cottages, we all had kids all about the same age. So one of us would take a load of children each afternoon down to some place to swim. And that's the only recreation we had.

Q: Tell me about your children. I haven't heard about them. How many do you have?

(BLANK SPACE ON TAPE)

Sadie: Albert Francis.

Q: And he was born?

Sadie: He was born the 19th of April in 1938.

Q: And that was here in Eastham?

Sadie: No, he was born in Hyannis at the Hyannis Hospital. See, it was functioning then. It must have started-- I know when we went over there, when he was born, it had just-- it was a farm-- not a farmhouse, a dwelling house. And they had added on a little addition and that's where he was born, in the addition, it was finished that year.

Q: So he was kind of unusual. He was born in a hospital.

Sadie: Yes.

(TAPE MALFUNCTION)

Sadie: Rosalyce. R-o-s-a-l-y-c-e. They call her Rosie. But George's mother was named Alice and he wanted Alice in her name and we tried to put some name with it and dreamed up that.

Q: And what's happened to the children?

Sadie: Well, my son has been working for Bell Laboratories in Allentown, Pennsylvania and now he's coming up here to live permanently. And my daughter teaches school in New Hampshire.

Q: Do either of them have any families?

Sadie: Albert has had two children, Lisa and Mark. Lisa's married and has a little girl and Mark is seventeen. He's the only one in the family who doesn't like the idea of coming here, but I guess he'll get used to it.

Q: Is your son going to work here?

Sadie: He's going to work with a real estate company in Orleans.

Q: That'll be great for you, won't it?

Sadie: I think it's lovely, because, you know, he'll be here if I need someone to lean on once in a while.

Q: Absolutely. And then you'll be able to see the grandchildren too.

Sadie: I'll see Mark. Lisa will stay in-- Kutztown she lives in. Isn't that terrible? Kutztown. Dutch. (Spells name)

Q: My first boy friend was named Clifford Kutz. So that strikes a bell. (LAUGHTER) I'm glad I didn't marry him.

Sadie: We had a girl at Bridgewater named Mary Kutz. Well, Lisa-- when I write to her-- the terrible name, I have to look it up in the address book to see how it's spelled.

Q: Now we come to the Second World War. How were you affected in your family by that?

Sadie: Not much.

Q: I mean, your children were too young and your husband was--

Sadie: Well, my brother, in order to get into active service, he enlisted. He was thirty-five and he would have been, you know, drafted. So he was the only one in the family that was-- he didn't go across. He got into some kind of a-- something to do with training officers. I don't know just what it was.

Q: Do you remember December 7th, when the Japanese attacked?

Sadie: Yes, I remember it.

Q: Where were you?

Sadie: In Maine. It came over the radio.

Q: And what happened?

Sadie: Well, the boys kept having to leave town, you know, to go into service. And I remember the blackouts up there. Of course, we lived in kind of high country. It was up in the mountainous country. It was kind of scarey. I pulled down all the curtains and hear planes up above and everything. That was scarey. And I remember the rationing of food that we couldn't get, which we'd like to have gotten. Though it didn't affect me personally really.

Q: Because your husband didn't have to go?

Sadie: No.

Q: Sadie, have you developed a philosophy of life over the years?

Sadie: Not particularly. I believe every day you should live as you'd like to live and have a good time.

Q: That's a good philosophy.

Sadie: I don't know what else you'd do. I've had depression spells when I could have done anything bad, but I think you just have to be content with what you have and just try to live a happy life. Keep busy.

Q: That's a good philosophy.

Let's talk about the Historical Society a little. Did you have any part in its founding, when it first started?

Sadie: No, not really. Mr. Jewell and Captain Robert Sparrow and Sam Bartlett and those men seemed to go ahead, and then they asked me if I'd join. I don't remember having any particular-- you know, help.

Q: Were there a lot of people interested in starting a society here?

Sadie: I think there were, yes.

Q: And you evidently got the schoolhouse pretty cheap, as I remember. I think Fred Jewell told me.

Sadie: The men each gave twenty-five hundred. Each of the three men. I think it must have been-- what? Seven thousand? Something like that.

Q: What part did Kenny Collins play in that? Wasn't he one of the movers and shakers?

Sadie: No. He was young. His father, Bernard Collins, Sr., loaned some money. He and Captain Robert Sparrow and Ralph Chase loaned the money, in order that we could buy the place. Then, of course, they were paid back.

Q: Have there been any things happen over the years that would be interesting to record? Obviously, there haven't been too many arguments.

Sadie: No. I think when Mr. Jewell sort of slowed up, people wondered what was going to happen, but Kenny was coming along. He became president, and we just went along as we were and got along all right.

Q: When did Verena enter the picture? Verena Daley?

Sadie: When she deeded her house to our society.

Q: Do you remember what year that was?

Sadie: No, I don't remember.

Q: And how did that come about?

Sadie: We don't know. I think Mr. Jewell had a letter from her, saying that she would-- the children didn't want it and she didn't want it to be torn down, and she thought as an old house it might be something we could enjoy and use, and we just voted that we'd accept it. And then it was deeded to us.

Q: How do you feel about it? Do you think it was a good thing to do?

Sadie: I imagine it will work out to be a good thing as the years go along.

Q: There have been a lot of people-- or not a lot, but some people who have said that the Historical Society might be wise to buy the old Brackett store and redo it and bring it back. Do you have any feeling about that?

Sadie: That store didn't mean anything to me, because I never went

into it.

Q: One last little question here. If you had your life to live over again, would you change anything? And I think I know what you're going to say. You're going to go into business.

Sadie: No.

Q: No?

Sadie: Yes, I think I would. I'd go and take a secretarial course and I'd learn the things I wanted to learn. When I went into the library and had a typewriter, a new one, I was so thrilled. And I didn't know how to type, but I learned to type with one finger, you know. I got along very well.

But that's what I'd like to do. And I'd like to have got married younger, had more family, and not have such an upsetting young life, because I didn't have any. I had to take care of old people.

Q: That wasn't much fun.

Sadie: No, it wasn't. It was bad. So those are the changes I might--

Q: Those are the changes, right. Can you think of anything you want to add for the record? About town history or your life or anything?

Sadie: Well, I think Eastham was a good town to grow up in. When I grew up here. Because it was a pleasant time. Everybody was-- I don't know, it seems there wasn't-- they were happy. They raised

their own crops and we got along with what we had and it was a nice community in which to live.

Q: It was a simpler time. And do you think in many ways that we as a society have lost sight of some of these things, the sense of values?

Sadie: No, I think the Society is helping preserve those things.

Q: Oh, I meant society with a small "s". Our civilization.

Sadie: We have automobiles now and life is a little faster, I think. I think Eastham will never be spoiled. It's changed a lot, that's all.

Q: You think the new zoning plans are going to help keep it the way it is?

Sadie: I hopw so.

Q: They seem to have a good committee and people who are very eager to keep it like this.

Sadie: Yes, I think so.

Q: Well, thank you very much.